

June 2021

Book Review: Aviation Accident Law

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Recommended Citation

Wm. Rann Newcomb, Book Review: Aviation Accident Law, 24 Dicta 276 (1947).

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Book Review

AVIATION ACCIDENT LAW by Charles S. Rhyne, Columbia Law Book Company, Washington, D. C., 1947, \$7.50.

This book is the first attempt to gather into one volume all of the decided cases involving aviation accidents in an effort to state the status of the legal rules developed by such decisions. Applicable statutes and treaties which are now in effect are also considered. The author deals with such important questions as whether a particular operator is a common or private carrier, types of aircraft accidents, liability of manufacturers, repairmen, and vendors for aviation accidents caused by defective work or equipment, liability of bailees of airplanes, *res ipsa loquitur*, defenses in accident cases, workmen's compensation laws in relation to aviation accidents, insurance problems, international air transportation, and damage to baggage and express. Your reviewer has run through several of the chapters and finds that the material is presented in a very clear and analytical manner. The importance of the work was well stated in the introduction where the author points out the unprecedented expansion of civil aviation and states, "As these thousands of civilian airplanes fill the air, it is a certainty that aviation accidents will increase along with this general increase in civil aviation. Liabilities of airplane owners and pilots for damage claims growing out of these aircraft accidents will therefore grow in importance as more and more people will be affected."

It seems obvious that not only the attorney representing airline companies, but also the general practising attorney will be greatly affected by the increase in civil aviation; that he should for that reason acquaint himself with the fundamental laws of aviation accidents the general patterns of which are emerging from an increasing number of court decisions. Your reviewer heartily recommends this excellent volume as a starting point for such a study.

The author, through his 1944 *Airports and the Courts*, and other works, has proven his right to recognition as an authority in this field.

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Index to Denver Ordinances Available

All general ordinances of the city of Denver enacted since the publication of the municipal code of 1927 have been compiled and indexed. A limited number of these compiled ordinances have been prepared and will be available for use in law libraries, but no new code can be printed for general distribution at this time because of lack of funds. An index to all these ordinances will be published and copies of the index can be had through the office of the City Attorney, Municipal Bldg., Denver, at a cost of \$1.00, if ordered immediately. The index will be of some assistance to law offices, as through it one will be able to determine whether or not any new ordinances not in the 1927 code are in effect on any particular subject.